

to work; its bedside tables that include piles of books that we read before we fall asleep, or continue reading when we cannot sleep. Oh, the refuge we find in books and reading, and how mystery, history and intrigue draw us back again and again."

Mr. Speaker, I would dare say there is not one of us who has not had our nose buried in a "whodunit" book, letting our imagination soar in wonderment about what the ending will be. Whether it is Sherlock Holmes or Dick Tracy or Harry Potter, or my childhood favorite, the Hardy Boys mysteries, our support for reading and writing mystery books is a worthy cause. Exciting mystery writers over the years have provided untold hours of enjoyment to child and adult alike. Agatha Christie, Ellery Queen, Alfred Hitchcock, Phyllis Whitney, Mickey Spillane, Mary Higgins Clark, and J.K. Rowling have enriched our lives and stimulated our imaginations.

In the Kids Love a Mystery reading program, participants can earn an Eddie Award Certificate by registering with a local sponsor and reading at least one mystery book. Or participants may write their own mystery story and have a panel selected by an author judge the entry.

I commend the Mystery Writers of America for recognizing the value and importance of reading and for observing October each year as Kids Love a Mystery Month.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and appropriate then for Congress to celebrate the reading for children and agree to this concurrent resolution establishing Kids Love a Mystery Month. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 373, the resolution of the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) which supports and promotes Kids Love a Mystery Program throughout the United States.

Under the sponsorship of the Mystery Writers of America organization, this program brings together authors who write for juvenile and young adult readers with children, parents, teachers, and librarians in a nationwide series of events each October to celebrate mystery writing.

This year, First Lady Laura Bush will serve as the honorary chair of the Kids Love a Mystery program. H. Con. Res. 373 expresses the sense of Congress that Kids Love a Mystery is a good program that promotes literacy through the creative process and should be encouraged. It underscores our belief that learning to read is the greatest gift one generation can bestow on the next.

With this resolution, we encourage the President to issue a proclamation in support of the Kids Love a Mystery Program. This annual program has proven to be a valuable method to encourage literacy, foster deductive rea-

soning, and enhance critical-thinking skills for our young readers. The Kids Love a Mystery Program was developed by the Mystery Writers of America, a nonprofit entity that serves as the premier organization for mystery writers and other professionals in the mystery field. Through its chapters in all 50 States, the organization has utilized the month of October each year to orchestrate the Kids Love a Mystery Program with particular emphasis on fostering both reading and writing initiatives.

Since its inception in 1998, the Kids Love a Mystery Program has involved more than 15,000 young readers in 31 States plus the District of Columbia. Two of the most popular initiatives within the Kids Love a Mystery Program are the presentation of Eddie Awards, certificates that are given to every child who registers with a local participating library, school, bookstore or even on the Internet and reads at least one mystery book in the month of October.

In addition, young readers are encouraged to write their own mystery stories in October to earn an Eddie Award.

Mr. Speaker, we know that reading is the basis for all learning, and mystery stories have proven to be particularly attractive to young readers. I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution to encourage more young people to read.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, let me say that nothing is more important to the education of our children than the ability to read and read well. We have often heard it said that we learn to read so we can read to learn. The importance of that needs to be accomplished, indeed, as in the context of No Child Left Behind by the third grade. We will continue to have a strong emphasis on reading programs like this resolution in regard to Kids Love a Mystery. I would just encourage all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and it is nice to have an opportunity to have a good bipartisan piece of legislation that we can all support. We are all behind trying to make sure that all our children can read and read well.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage unanimous support for House Concurrent Resolution 373.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 373.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on three motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Resolution 519, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 392, by the yeas and nays; and

House Resolution 495, by the yeas and nays.

The votes on S. 1881 and House Concurrent Resolution 373 will be taken tomorrow.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

SENSE OF HOUSE WITH RESPECT TO SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER 22, 2003 EARTHQUAKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 519.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 519, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 0, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 42]

YEAS—404

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|-------------|---------|--------------|
| Abercrombie | Allen | Baker |
| Ackerman | Andrews | Baldwin |
| Aderholt | Baca | Ballance |
| Akin | Bachus | Ballenger |
| Alexander | Baird | Barrett (SC) |